

**REMARKS****Previous Examiner Interview and Claim Amendments**

A telephonic interview was conducted with Examiner B. Shrivastav and Kevin McEnaney. The independent claims were discussed. Prior art references U.S. Pat. No. 6,111,408, U.S. Pat. No. 5,043,664 and U.S. Pat. No. 6,147,490. Examiner Shrivastav requested the claims be amended in light of these references and to clarify the claimed subject matter. Specific claim amendments were discussed to better recite two aspects of the invention, first to recite use in a borehole environment and second to recite use in the presence of a primarily inhomogeneous field. Applicant adopted these suggestions in its Preliminary Amendment filed prior to the present Office Action.

**103 Rejections**

Notwithstanding Applicant's adopting the suggested claim amendments, the claims now stand rejected as being obvious in view of Blades (US 6,111,408) and Watanabe (US 6,147,490), both of which were discussed during the telephone interview prior to this Office Action.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the combination of Blades and Watanabe is improper as relating to divergent technologies. Blades relates to techniques for performing NMR analysis in a downhole fluid sampling tool. Watanabe relates to a medical diagnostic MRI device for use on human patients. As is the case for most of the diagnostic MRI prior art, the limitations of space and power available in a downhole environment preclude diagnostic MRI innovations from application on a wellbore tool. This is the case here, where the amount of power and type of MRI apparatuses discussed in Watanabe are simply not available on a downhole tool such as Blades. An alternative interpretation would obviate most of the recent patents related to downhole sampling tools incorporating NMR hardware and methodology.

With specific relation to the claim language, and the Office Action agrees, that Blades does not suggest the claimed "J-edit pulse sequence for developing J modulation" and then acquiring the NMR measurements using a "detection sequence." Watanabe nowhere discloses its application outside the medical diagnostic field, such as to analyze formation samples, much less doing so "in a wellbore[borehole]," as specifically claimed by amendment. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art, when reading Watanabe, would be left with the well accepted notion that

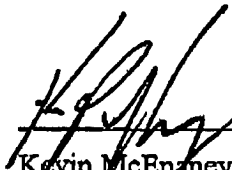
the limitation normally associated with downhole NMR would not allow application of Wanatabe to Blades' fluid sampling device.

### **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the application and claims stand in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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